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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FRANKFORT CHARITABLE GAMING FACILITY OWNERS  
INDICTED FOR CRIMINAL SYNDICATION**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 14, 2004) – John Winstead, commissioner of the Kentucky Office of Charitable Gaming (OCG), announced today that Steve and Brenda Hall, of Frankfort, were arrested this morning for criminal syndication regarding the operation of a charitable gaming facility. Criminal syndication is a Class B felony with a penalty range of 10 to 20 years.

The indictment, returned on May 11, 2004, was the result of a lengthy investigation by the Investigative Branch of the OCG into three charitable gaming facilities, operated by Steve Hall, and located in Paris, Maysville and Shelbyville. The Halls were primarily gaming on behalf of American Legions and that is where the funds should have been directed. The American Legion, Department of Kentucky, has been contacted and is cooperating with OCG.

The OCG worked with Bourbon County's Office of the Commonwealth Attorney and the Franklin County Sheriff's office during the investigation and arrest. The Hall's scheme broke several charitable gaming and criminal laws. Facility operators are supposed to only act as landlords, but the Halls were actually running the games for the charities and paying volunteers through phony donations. Paying volunteers is a violation of the charitable gaming laws and also a crime.

When OCG enforcement officers and Franklin County deputies arrested the Halls at approximately 6:45 a.m., they discovered a briefcase containing a substantial amount of cash, and checkbook registers showing payments to charities. Also found were charitable gaming records that should have been in the possession of the charity.

A cash bond for each of the Halls is set at \$15,000. The Halls are currently being held at the Bourbon County jail awaiting arraignment. The OCG ensures the productivity of charitable gaming through appropriate regulation, oversight and education. Approximately 45 people work at the OCG.